

**APPENDIX 2**  
**Focus Group Discussion Guide<sup>1</sup>**

**I). Knowledge of contraceptive methods, attributes and involvement in family planning.**

What is family planning?

How do married men/ women perceive contraceptive use?

What knowledge of contraceptives do they have?

(PROBE: Types; do they know how they work?

What attributes do they place on the various contraceptives?

What are some of their preferences for contraceptive attributes?

What are some contraceptive attributes they are not comfortable with?

Are these currently being met by the contraceptives available? By the contraceptive used by the Wife?

Would or has these affected their taking a step to decide/ ask wives, discuss with wives about contraceptive use?

Would it affect his/ her use of contraceptives?

What would be the ideal contraceptive?

(PROBE) Would this be a contraceptive for the wife or for the husband? Why?

How do they perceive their own knowledge of contraceptive methods?

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<sup>1</sup> The FGD Guide served as a guide to ensure all areas were covered during discussion and all issues needing probing were dealt with. However, given the nature of focus group discussions, different participants raised other relevant issues in replying to the set questions and these too were further examined in the discussion forum even though they had not been pre-set.

How do they perceive, men's/ women's knowledge of contraceptive methods?

Would/ has it impacted on their contraceptive use decision-making?

**Perception of effect of contraceptive use on reproductive health.**

What are some negative effects of contraceptives they have in mind?

How did they get such conclusions? (PROBE) from spouse? Heard about it? Saw? Experienced?

What are the implications of family planning to reproductive health?

(PROBE) Are there any negative effects of family planning/ modern contraceptives on reproductive health?

What do they understand by reproductive health?

What are their perceptions about side effects?

Has / Can this affect their decision to use / not to use / to discuss / not to discuss contraceptive use with their wives?

Does family planning have any positive effect on reproductive health?

**II). Attitudes about Family Planning and Motivations for family planning involvement**

Participants' own individual attitudes about family planning?

PROBE for factors influencing participants' attitudes about family planning

What are some of the attitudes about family planning held by people in this community?

Why? PROBE for factors related to various attitudes whether positive or negative.

Factors impacting on formation and changes in family planning attitude in the local community?  
PROBE for contextual influencing factors, allow for participants to bring them up and discuss.

General attitudes held by different groups of people in the local community? PROBE for men, women, local leadership etc.

Attitudes about specific methods? PROBE for individual experiences and what participants have heard about

Impact of attitudes on their contraceptive use? PROBE for how individual users deal with negative attitudes or stigma.

Perceptions about various family planning attitudes?

### **III). Gender role balance, communication and decision-making.**

In this area, who is considered the head of the family?

In this area, who amongst couples is responsible for family planning decision making? Why?  
(PROBE: If the man, are there incidences when the woman makes such decisions? When?)

Do couples commonly communicate on the issue of family planning?  
(PROBE: If not, why? Is it important for this communication between couples?)

What is the role of the husband, wife in achievement of family planning?

What factors inhibit couple communication?

What factors do they think would enhance such communication?

Is couple communication essential for the success of family planning?

What are the roles of the husband and wife in the family?

Do these roles overlap in some/all incidences?

(PROBE: Which are the roles that overlap, which do not?)

Who is responsible for family planning decision-making? Why?

(PROBE: If both, how do they arrive at a joint decision?)

Who normally uses contraceptives between married couples?

Does the wife have to seek permission from the husband? Why?

Can the husband seek to discuss family planning with the wife?

(PROBE: If this is not the norm what are the factors that hinder this?)

Would the husband be comfortable if the wife were to trigger discussion on family planning?

(PROBE: If not why? Do wives ever try? How do the husbands react?)

PROBE for specific descriptions regarding family planning communication between the wife and husband, including previous attempts and results?

Is it the man's or a woman's responsibility to prevent against unwanted pregnancy?

What happens when a woman suggests that she use a modern contraceptive?

Do women bring up the subject of condom use if a man is not wearing one? (PROBE: why or why not?)

What happens when women suggest that their partners use a condom?

What are some of the things that men say when women ask them to use condoms?

Are there situations when men want to use a condom yet they are embarrassed or reluctant to put on one? Why?

Are there some women who do not want men to use condoms? (PROBE: who? what circumstances?)

Do you think it's easier to use a condom if you have talked about it to your partner ahead of time?

Do women have a right to suggest that men wear condoms? Has a woman ever asked you to use a condom? How did you feel? (How would it make you feel if a woman asked you to wear a condom?)

If you don't want to use a condom and your partner asks you to use one, what do you think of her? What do you do?

If you have a partner with whom you don't normally use condoms, and she asked you to wear a condom what would you think? How would you respond?

#### **IV). Perceptions about husbands/ wives involvement in family planning, and Examples of Male involvement**

What are the women's/ men's opinions about engaging husbands in family planning communication?

Is it important to engage husbands/ men in family planning? Why?

How would the husbands/ men play a role in this regard?

Are the family planning services available in the area offering services to men?

What do they think is the response by men? How can they explain this?

What do they think about husbands/ men's attitudes towards family planning?

Is it considered proper for the wife to try and engage the husband in talk about contraceptive use by either of them? If not, why? What is the general opinion regarding this issue?

Do they think the husbands/ men have knowledge about modern contraceptive methods? What makes them form the respective opinions?

What are their opinions regarding family size and the socio-economic costs encountered?  
Could this affect involvement in fertility regulation by married spouses?

What are the common conceptions held by husbands/ men about their involvement in family planning?

What does involvement in family planning imply for husbands?

Are there any benefits in husbands getting involved in family planning?

What are the hindrances to wives? Is it a good idea? Why? Are there any hindrances to men?

Whom would they prefer to use contraceptives between husband and wife?

What factors would influence this decision?

In this area, what are the general attitudes towards family planning? Why?

How do couples usually decide about the number of children they should have?

(PROBE: Do couple discuss this? What sort of things do they consider? Do they discuss with other people? Who?)

In this area what do husbands and wives consider the best family size? Why?

(PROBE: do men and women consider different sizes to be the best? Do they care about the number of boys and girls?)

Are there things men and women do to affect when they will have children without talking about it directly?

If a husband and wife disagree about whether to delay or stop having children, what will usually happen?

(PROBE: Does this depend on: how the marriage was arranged, the size of bride-wealth payment, the number of wives how much money the man has, how much money the woman has, whether they know about family planning, whether family planning is available in the area?)

If a husband and wife want to delay or stop having children, what can/ do they do?

(PROBE: If family planning is mentioned: What is family planning? What does it mean? If family planning is not mentioned: Have you had about family planning? What does it mean?)

What are some of the factors that influence decision-making process from husbands and wives?

PROBE for role played by others in family or local community if at all.

NB: Engage participants using contraceptives to describe the process of decision making between themselves and their husbands, or individual decision making where applicable. PROBE for previous and current experiences.